

THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., Publisher
N. B. UPDIKE, President
BALLARD DUNN, JOY M. HACKLER,
Editor in Chief Business Manager

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
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The Omaha Bee is a member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations, the recognized authority on circulation audits, and the Omaha Bee's circulation is regularly audited by their organizations.

Entered as second-class matter, May 28, 1908,
at Omaha postoffice under act of March 3, 1879.

BEE TELEPHONES
Private Branch Exchange, Ask for
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Omaha Where the West is at its Best

"BATTLING BOB'S" CRUDE FOOTWORK.

Robert Marion La Follette, running wild for president of the United States, knows his business. As a proselytizer he has taken a hint from the apostle who advised his disciples, "I am made all things unto all men." When he announced his personally-conducted pilgrimage from the senate to the White House, he made certain promises. These were so deftly worded those who wanted to accepted them as definite and specific. Now he is taking other rabbits out of the hat. His watchers marvel in their simplicity. How they got there is beyond their ken. All they know is that the professor produced them, so they must have come from the hat.

One of these has to do with the supreme court of the United States. In his Madison Square Garden speech he says:

"The federal courts, particularly the supreme court, have declared unconstitutional or otherwise nullified the most important legislation enacted by congress within the last few years."

Such a statement, standing alone, is unworthy of even such a demagogue as La Follette is proving himself to be. He follows it with another, which makes his purpose the plainer:

"Always these decisions of the court are on the side of the wealthy and the powerful and against the poor and the weak when it is the policy of the lawmaking branch of the government to assist by enlightened and humanitarian legislation."

No more open attempt to array one part of the American people against another ever was made. "Battling Bob" as a boxer is awkward. His footwork is crude. He cites no instances, preferring to deal in generalities. He must have gasped at his own temerity, when he recalled the fact that the supreme court of the United States has held the La Follette seaman's act to be good law, despite the effort of powerful shipping combinations to nullify its provisions. He knows that the State of Massachusetts failed in its attempt to overthrow the Shepard-Towner maternity bill because the supreme court held it good. He knows that state compensation laws have been held good, despite the fact that they do away with the traditional defenses of assumption of risk, contributory negligence and fellow servant's act. He knows that quite recently the so-called Sherman act, against which he so vehemently inveighs, was construed to exonerate the United Mine Workers of America in the celebrated Coronado case.

Such knowledge does not serve the end to which "Battling Bob" is striving. When the income tax act was declared unconstitutional, it was because congress was forbidden in the Constitution from enacting such legislation. An amendment to the Constitution of the United States cured the difficulty. That was not in the interest of "the wealthy and powerful," but for the good of all. So it is with other acts. Child labor is unpopular, but congress is forbidden by the Constitution from legislating on the subject, just as it is forbidden to enact a general divorce law, or laws regulating the punishment of crimes within a state. Now the states are asked to give consent to the enactment of such laws by congress. When this consent is given, the supreme court will not hold the law to be unconstitutional.

The supreme court does not veto any law. Its powers are to examine laws and determine if they are such as are permitted by the Constitution. If so found, they are upheld by the court. If not, it is because congress has exceeded its powers, and is held in check by the Constitution.

What La Follette seeks is to have authority given to congress to declare any of its enactments good, regardless of the fundamental law that creates congress and limits its powers. We have already called attention to the confusion that will certainly follow the adoption of any such rule. Legislation will be in line with popular whim, not following the course charted by the fundamental law of the land. The mob will be substituted for the Constitution, and whichever faction happens to gain control at the moment will direct the course of events.

That means the end of order and stability. It will be a glorious day for the La Follettes, who risk nothing but their time. What about the thrifty, industrious, frugal and prosperous citizens, whose all will be at stake? Even in Russia the soviets are striving to establish government under a written constitution, while La Follette and his mixed crowd of socialists and communists are working to destroy such government in the United States. What a travesty on good sense!

WAY OF A BIRD IN THE AIR.

Solomon marveled at the flight of the fowl, and admitted he could not understand its ways. Modern duck hunters endorse that statement, and would like to shake hands with the wise king. A news item tells of some farmer boys being fined for shooting ducks out of season. Until September 16 the duck is protected by law, and may not be shot without danger of facing the court. However, we imagine that the story has to do with some widgeons or butterballs, who are just pestering around the stubble fields, sort of sharing with the prairie chicken. The

real southward flight of the duck has not yet commenced.

Presently the storm king will extend his lines, and the marshes in Manitoba and Minnesota will begin to freeze up. Then the old drakes will marshal their flocks, and the real migration will be on. South Dakota, Nebraska and Colorado lakes and ponds will be filled with the visitors, who will pause here long enough to get the taste of wild rice out of their craws by gormandizing on corn and winter wheat. One rancher out in Box Butte county last fall declared the visiting ducks had cost him at least a third of his corn.

That is natural. What this is intended to tell about, however, is the wisdom of the duck. He, or she, as the case may be, has discovered certain lakes and ponds in western Nebraska where shooting is not permitted. Uncounted numbers of duck bob up and down on the wavelets of these protected waters, quacking derisively at the hunters passing by, headed for lakes where the birds seldom alight. We have it on good authority that the quacks are derisive. What the hunters would like to know is who told the ducks they would be immune in certain spots and fair game in others?

COOLIDGE ON LIBERTY.

Addressing the Holy Name society on Sunday, President Coolidge put himself squarely on record to the klan or any similar organization. He did not indulge in any periods of flamboyant oratory. Just in a plain, simple way pointed out that the Constitution of the United States guarantees to every citizen among other things full religious liberty. There is to be no religious test for office under our government.

The president stands on this, for he is sworn to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." No higher duty can devolve upon any man, and it is equally the duty of every American citizen. No question has ever arisen as to the fidelity of the president of the United States to his solemn oath of office. The man who occupies the White House as chief executive of the nation is faithful to the interests and concerns of every citizen of the whole country. He is faithful to them as a whole and singly, too, so far as they may be affected by the law.

It was not ill-timed, however, that the president should take the occasion offered him to reassure those who might feel apprehension because of widespread and imprudent agitation. His exposition of the theory and practice of our system of government was one of the clearest and soundest utterances since he has been president. Our institutions will endure, he said, because they are based on eternal principles. Liberty is individual, and is so confirmed and protected under the law.

He follows it with another, which makes his purpose the plainer:

"The tenets of the Holy Name society indicate, the president says, the foundation of the liberty we enjoy. Reverence for God is the support of human institutions. We would like to put in a word right here for the society. Although organized under the auspices of the Roman Catholic church, its membership should include all creeds, sects, denominations. Especially is it aimed at profane swearing, the taking lightly of the name of the Creator in vain. No apologist or practitioner of profanity has ever succeeded in justifying his habit. Swearing is merely a habit, easy to contract, difficult to overcome. Against it the society has made little headway. The Holy Name group has a worthy object, and should be imitated by all. Liberty is a fine thing. It can be enjoyed without the resort to profanity.

OLD LEAGUE IN NEW CLOTHES.

Certain definite information is coming out from Geneva concerning the tinkering of the Covenant of the League of Nations. Not much in detail, beyond the fact that the leaders are working to make airtight Article XVI of the existing covenant. This is the one that provides for the economic boycott of any recalcitrant nation. One of the amendments makes any nation not promptly submitting any grievance to arbitration an "aggressor" to be subjected to all the penalties that attach to making war.

Premier Benes of Czechoslovakia is credited with the draft that is being considered. John Corbin, cables from Geneva to the New York Times the information that the Benes draft is regarded there as a victory for France and the "Little Entente" over England. Under the security provision of the proposed covenant, England will be required to come to the aid of either of the others, or any other member of the league whenever the powers of Article XVI may be invoked. In Europe Germany and Russia are being guarded against by France and the Slav states. Some have said that in America the United States is considered. England's naval power will be directed against our ports, should we unfortunately be looked upon, even technically, as an "aggressor."

The amendments have not as yet been acted upon by the council of the league, so it is not time to get excited over any of them. Other nations are not entirely "sold" on the idea of compulsory arbitration, although all sincerely wish to outlaw war.

The Benes draft seems to be calculated chiefly to draw England, and possibly the United States, into a combination that will guarantee France against Germany, and Czechoslovakia against Russia. It is the old League of Nations in new clothing, with teeth in Article XVI, to which the United States already has noted exceptions.

Bert Wheeler says that Dawes is kidnapping the constitution. That is nothing to what "Battling Bob" proposes to do with it.

Cal Coolidge will have one advantage over his rivals. He will get to see the World Series.

Legionnaires think they had a good time at St. Paul, but "they ain't seen nothin' yet."

Old King Ak is back on the job, all right.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davie

TOOTHCACHE

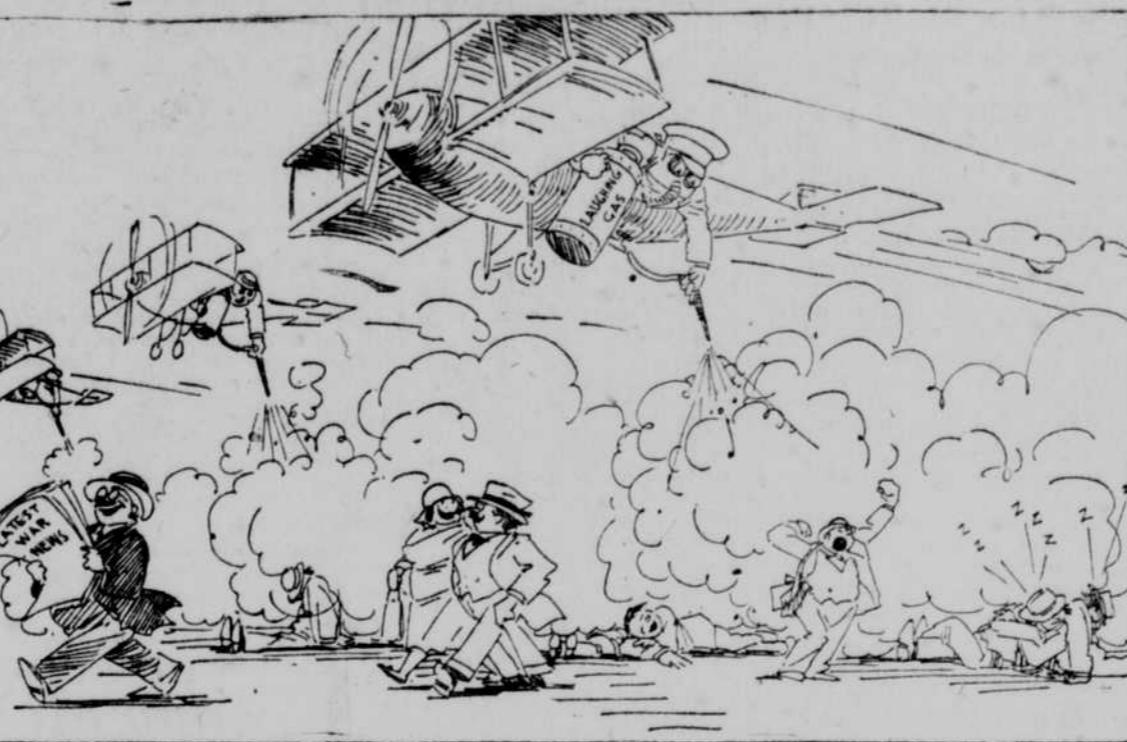
Of all the grief and despair that I've met
There's none that I'd like to forsake—
There's none that I'd like to avoid and forget
As much as the dreadful toothache.

It takes all the zest of my mellowing years,
It takes the sunshine from my life;
It leadeth me into the valley of tears,
And drives to distraction my wife.

It bringeth my children to reticence stern
The miserable while that it stays,
And maketh them hope for a speedy return
Of normally joyous days.

It blandly defies rheumatic relief,
It's Satan avowed and perverse;
There's nothing at all, in my honest belief,
From start to the finish that's worse.

They're Improving the Science of War so We Won't Mind It Any More Than Removing Our Tonsils



SOMEBODY HAS DISCOVERED A GAS THAT WILL PUT A WHOLE NATION TO SLEEP FOR 48 HOURS



AND AN AERIAL BOMB THAT WILL PULVERIZE EVERYTHING WITHIN SIX HUNDRED YARDS.

Letters From Our Readers

All letters must be signed, but name will be withheld upon request. Communications of 200 words and less will be given preference.

Triumph for La Follette.

Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: The politicians drafted the election laws of all the states. They did their best to make it impossible for independent candidates to get before the voters. The two old parties wanted a monopoly. Hence Pool's stand against Dan Butler.

When the independents examined the California election laws they found that in order to place La Follette and Wheeler electors on the official ballot they must prepare a petition bearing the signatures of 25,000 qualified voters, and that each voter must sign the petition 14 times—one for each elector, and once "at large"—and that every signature must be acknowledged before a notary public.

"President Coolidge says what he means," said Mr. Pool. "He is sincere. And let's hope that after the experience of the last three years it's not it."—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

Are democrats the only ones who possess common sense, and are there no crooks among them? Maybe that's the reason they belong to the "donkey gang."

"It seems as though it's going to be a mighty common campaign when La Follette is fighting for the common people. Mr. Coolidge for common sense, and Mr. Davis for common honesty."—Nashville Southern Lumberman.

We've heard of common people, common sense, and common honesty. Is a sort of new one. How many have to steal to graduate out of the "common honesty" class?

The last democratic administration ought to be able to answer that question.

"Bobbed hair is no more likely to be a woman to stray from the straight and narrow path than long white whiskers are likely to make a man a saint."—New York American.

Is that so? However, the fact remains that the ladies who first aped bobbed hair and unshaved manes to keep off the sidewalk. We never heard of the impression that "long white whiskers" indicated age and not that they contained the germs of sinfulness.

"In the middle ages it took a rightable-bodied citizen to live to be mid-aged."—Little Rock Arkansas Gazette.

There were no "pacifists" (pacifists) as the lady in opposition to Defense day called them—in those days; furthermore, it's quite likely there

was a good sprinkling of Irish among them.

"What a forbidding world this must be to the horsefly."—Cleveland Press.

Not near so "forbidding" as it is to the "wets," and, incidentally, the pedestrian.

SAM BAKER.

No Closing of the Door.

The president has rightly answered a misguided American who wrote protesting because a Negro delegate to congress was a sort of a black candidate for congress in New York's Twenty-first district. It is not surprising that the president is "amazed to receive such a letter." Mr. Coolidge pertinently cited the vigorous affirmation of Theodore Roosevelt, that the door of opportunity ought not to be shut in the face of any man on the ground of race or color. A colored delegate is an American and indefensible. It would be peculiarly inappropriate that the republican party should deny political rights to the negro when it was the great republican president who issued the proclamation that emancipated the race and thus led the way to ultimate enfranchisement.

—New York Evening Post.

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